

SENATE RESOLUTION 10

By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Master Mason Thomas Harvey Freeman on the occasion of the 110th anniversary of Mt. Juliet Masonic Lodge #642.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should honor the memory of those Masons who, during their lifetimes, gave unselfishly of themselves, their time, and their talents to perpetuate the public good; and

WHEREAS, the late Thomas Harvey Freeman was a successful businessman who was renowned for his interest and participation in matters of public interest; and

WHEREAS, born on February 24, 1835, in Wilson County, Thomas Harvey Freeman was the son of Edward Freeman, a North Carolina native, and Miss Charlotte Everett; Edward Freeman relocated to Wilson County after the death of his first wife and led the life of a farmer; and

WHEREAS, after graduation, Thomas Harvey Freeman taught school and farmed until the Civil War broke out; and

WHEREAS, he married Nancy Curd in 1860, enlisted as a first lieutenant in the 45th Tennessee Infantry in 1861, and served in the Battle of Shiloh on April 6-7, 1862; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman of business acumen, Thomas Harvey Freeman financed many local enterprises and served in various positions of commerce, including president of the Bank of Mt. Juliet and newspaper publisher; and

WHEREAS, in 1873, he served as superintendent of schools in Wilson County; he later established the Teacher Institute, which met annually for more than thirty years to provide professional in-service training; and

WHEREAS, T. Harvey Freeman's commitment to public service included an interest in politics; a member of the Democratic Party, he served in his first political office as a member of the Tennessee House of Representatives in 1889-1890, representing Wilson County, and served in the Tennessee Senate in 1895-1896, representing Smith and Wilson counties; and

WHEREAS, always seeking to improve the quality of life in his community, Mr. Freeman was a Mason and a member of the Knights of Pythias; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Freeman joined Mt. Juliet Masonic Lodge #379 as an Apprentice in 1868, became a Master Mason in 1869, and served as Worshipful Master of the lodge in 1875; and

WHEREAS, after Masonic Lodge #379 went defunct on January 30, 1884, he affiliated with Mt. Juliet Lodge #642 on January 1, 1907, and served as its Secretary in 1912; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Harvey Freeman passed away on June 15, 1915, leaving an indelible legacy of public service as a Mason and beyond; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Master Mason Thomas Harvey Freeman, recalling his many contributions to humanity, as his fellow Masons observe the 110th anniversary of Mt. Juliet Masonic Lodge #642.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.